

between (using numbering in left hand margin) lines 9 and 10, insert the following heading:

a2
--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 2, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following heading:

a3
--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 7, above line 1, insert the following heading:

a4
--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 9, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following heading:

a5
--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 to the following (see the attachment hereto):

a6
sub c) 3. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 1, characterized in that the male (1, 5, 7, 9) and female (2, 6, 8)

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ended) Fastening device according to claim 1, in that the hollow foot (21, 61) comprises prongs (23, 25; 63, 65; 83, 85) (63b, 65b; 83b, 85b) by which the cap (20, 60, 80), and respectively the ends (63a, 65a; 83a, 85a), with a minimum internal transverse dimension (81), and wherein the second surface of the free ends of the prongs (23a, 25a; 63a, 65a; 83a, 85a) is

ended) Fastening device according to claim 1, in that the hollow foot (61, 81) comprises prongs (83, 85) separated from one another in the unlocked configuration of the device (70, 90) has at least a second surface (83b, 85b) by which the cap (60, 90), and respectively the ends (83a, 85a), with a minimum internal transverse dimension (81), and wherein the second surface of the free ends of the prongs (83a, 85a) is

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dimension (D2), that selectively enters the open space, the result of which is that the hollow foot (61; 81) selectively adopts its unlocked configuration for a second relative rotational position of the barrel (50, 70, 90) and the foot (61, 81), independently from the relative axial position of the male and female parts.

9. (Amended) Fastening device according to claims 1, characterized in that at least one elastic radial tab (26, 28; 86, 88) is provided in the opening (24) of the cap in order to selectively cooperate with the barrel.

10. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 1, characterized in that the inner branch (601, 801) of the cap includes at least two internal elastic tabs (6011, 6012; 8011, 8012) capable of applying pressure to the stack of panels in the locked configuration of the foot.

11. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 1, characterized in that the clip is produced by cutting, bending and heat treating a metal blank.

12. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 1, characterized in that the clip (2, 6, 8) is made of tempered steel.

13. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 8, characterized in that the third (714a, 715a; 914a, 915a) and fourth (614a, 615a; 814, 815a) surface features are respectively constituted by an axial rib of the barrel and by a corresponding cutout of the cap.

14. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 8, characterized in that the third and fourth surface features are respectively constituted by a recess of the head and by a boss of the cap.

15. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 1, characterized in that the barrel (70) has a collar (709) inserted into the opening of the cap counter to an elastic force and rendering the male and female parts inseparable from one another.

16. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 1, characterized in that the head (11, 51, 71) presses against the outer branch (202, 602), for the locked configuration of the foot (21, 61), and moves the inner and outer branches 601, 602 toward one another so as to generate an elastic stress between them.

17. (Amended) Fastening device according to claim 1, characterized in that the head (91) passes through the outer

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branch (802) and comes to rest against the inner branch (801) of the cap (80) for the locked configuration of the foot (81).

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19. (Amended) Assembly constituted by a fastening device according to any of claim 1 and by a stack of panels (3, 4) in which bores (30, 40) are provided, and including a bottom panel (4), in which assembly the thickness of the stack is between 0.5 and 3 mm, while the bore in the bottom panel has a larger transverse dimension of 7.7 mm.

20. (Amended) Assembly constituted by a fastening device according to any of claim 1 and by a stack of panels (3, 4) in which bores (30, 40) are provided, and including a bottom panel (4), in which assembly the thickness of the stack is between 3 and 4.5 mm, while the bore in the bottom panel (4) has a larger transverse dimension of 8.2 mm.

21. (Amended) Assembly constituted by a fastening device according to any of claim 1 and by a stack of panels (3, 4) in which bores (30, 40) are provided and including a bottom panel (4), in which assembly the thickness of the stack is between 4.5 and 6 mm, while the bore in the bottom panel (4) has a larger transverse dimension of 8.7 mm.